



SENATOR STEVENS:

"Over the past twenty years, the federal government & the State of Alaska have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on programs designed to address the needs of Alaska Natives. Progress has been made on many fronts, but serious problems remain.

"This Commission will review the successes & failures of the past twenty years & evaluate what steps should be taken by the federal government & Alaska to meet the challenges now faced by the Native peoples of Alaska."

SENATOR MURKOWSKI:

"The Joint Commission can be, & I think will be, the instrumentality for effecting the positive change called for by Alaska Natives. With active participation by natives, the State & Federal government, the Commission & its staff may be counted upon to develop well-founded recommendations for consideration by the Congress & the State Legislature. The Commission can really make a difference.

"What is important now is that village, regional & statewide organizations act promptly in nominating persons to be appointed by the President & the Governor of Alaska to be members of the Commission. I have talked with the White House, urging expeditious action on the appointments, once a reasonable time for nominations elapses."

CONGRESSMAN YOUNG:

"It's my hope that this important commission will lead the way to better and more effective programs for the health & education of our Native people.

"As a resident of rural Alaska, I have personally seen the need for new programs based on the recommendations of our Native people & the state & federal government.

"We have serious problems in Alaska with suicide, drug and alcohol abuse & high unemployment. I believe that this Commission can help create new & innovative methods on how to resolve these vital problems through improved health care delivery & education programs."

AFN Newsletter - Janice Ryan, Editor. For additional copies call (907) 274-3611.